

MARTIN GLYNN FIRST TO OPEN PEACE DOOR

Talk With Lloyd George Brought About by N. Y. 'Herald' Correspondent.

DE VALERA SUSPICIOUS

John McHugh Stuart Bore Message to Irish Leader From Premier.

STORY TOLD FIRST HAND

Two American Newspaper Men Had Leading Parts in Historic Negotiations.

By JOHN McHUGH STUART.
London Correspondent of THE NEW YORK HERALD.

With the practical assurance now that the Irish treaty will be ratified, it is at last possible to reveal some of the interesting details connected with the decisive efforts of Martin H. Glynn and THE NEW YORK HERALD in bringing about the first contact between Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. de Valera last May.

It is a fact that practically every American newspaper reporter who went to Ireland during the black days of the "terror"—and they were black days—came away with definite impressions of the virtues of the Irish cause and the Irish leaders. This used to worry the Irish office and the Government in Downing Street a good deal. Philip Kerr, who was then the very able secretary of Mr. Lloyd George, sometimes complained very bitterly about this in a good natured way.

Sir Hamar Greenwood, when asked in the House of Commons about reports in the American newspapers, was good enough to say that some of the American reporters had fallen victim to the undoubted charm of Irish hospitality. In England only the Manchester Guardian, the Daily News and the Westminster Gazette ever admitted that the forces of the Crown were anything but messengers of sweetness and light. And it was quite natural that British reporters, imbued with the splendid and noble tradition of British arms throughout the world, should fall to believe in lapses, terrible lapses on the part of their own forces, and could not see the virtues of the enemy. It was war between England and Ireland in those days.

Enter Martin Glynn.

The Argos-eyed giant known as the Foreign Office in Downing Street has a pretty efficient clipping bureau, however. It informed the Prime Minister and the Government of the way American opinion was being influenced. In the new Orientation of British policy after the war the United States is the pole star. Ireland was creating deviations in the compass bearings that no navigator of the British ship of state could reckon by.

It was in the midst of this state of affairs that I was talking one day to Mr. Kerr in Downing Street. He was insisting that we were wrong about Ireland. I told him half humorously that I expected an American editor of Irish extraction in London the next week, with whom he might be interested in talking.

The next week my old "boss" came to town. I have a wonderful collection of letters in which he "fired" me from the Times-Union, in Albany. But I always came back there, so perhaps he is a little bit fond of me, as I am of him.

At any rate, we had a reunion in London. He and I lunched one day in the famous old "Pinaros" room overlooking the Thames Embankment, where the Zepp bomb almost wrecked the Obelisk back of the Savoy. Ralph Blumfeld, who used to be THE NEW YORK HERALD correspondent in London and is now editor of the Tory Daily Express, was there, as was A. G. Gardiner, editor of the thoroughly Liberal Daily News. There were also Sir Philip Gibbs and Philip Kerr. Mr. Kerr came in late, and he had practically nothing to say. But he listened to Martin Glynn, and Martin Glynn was in the top of his form that day. When he came in late, and he had practically nothing to say. But he listened to Martin Glynn, and Martin Glynn was in the top of his form that day. When he came in late, and he had practically nothing to say. But he listened to Martin Glynn, and Martin Glynn was in the top of his form that day.

A Cigar With Lloyd George.

The next day also I had arranged to take Mr. Glynn at 6:30 o'clock in the evening to see Archbishop Mannix, who was then staying in the outskirts of London. When I went for him to the House of Commons and sent in word to him he came hurrying to the door with a mysterious smile.

"You've got to go out and make my peace with the Archbishop," he said. "I can't leave."

He refused to tell me why and refused to let me tell Archbishop Mannix, but asked for an appointment with the Archbishop the next day. That was easily arranged and Mr. Glynn finally got out of the House of Commons close to 9 o'clock in the evening. It developed that Carl W. Ackerman of the Philadelphia Public Ledger had been urging some Cabinet friend of his to get the Prime Minister to see Mr. Glynn and that the Prime Minister had done so. Mr. Glynn's account of the interview as he gave it to us that night was something like this:

"Well, I remembered one of Mr. Lloyd George's finest personations, which he quoted to him and he remembered something about a speech I made nominating Mr. Wilson the second time, and perhaps because there's a bond of sympathy between all speechmakers he offered me the friendly solace of a cigar."

"I won't take your time smoking your cigars, Mr. Prime Minister," I told him.

"Well," he answered, "I'm going to smoke. Won't you smoke with me?" and naturally a man doesn't refuse an invitation like that from the Prime Minister of England.

"From cigars we got to tea, talking all the while of everything but Ireland, and finally he asked me about that."

"I suppose the Prime Minister of England wants the bald truth and not flattery?" I suggested, and he nodded vigorously.

"Well, sir," I said, "I can't ever believe that there will be a true understanding between the United States and England until the Irish question is settled."

"Then went on to tell him of what I knew of American sentiment on the question. I made it plain to him that I represented no one and no organization, but was simply a country editor of some experience and of Irish blood. I told him something of the way all Americans of Irish blood were contributing to the Irish funds. He seemed to know a good deal of it, but he listened to it all eagerly and finally he said:

"Mr. Glynn, I think you're right, and I want to tell you that there is nothing within honorable limits I won't do to settle the Irish question. The one way to settle it is for the Irish leaders to get about the round table with us and thresh out our differences at close range. I'll tell you now, and you can tell the Irish leaders, you can tell your newspaper friends, and you can tell your Irish friends in America that I will meet Mr. de Valera or any of the Irish chiefs without imposing conditions on my part and without exacting promises from them. It may take a long time, but that's the only way we can ever thresh this out."

Stuart Bears the Message.

"That's going further than you have ever gone before in offering to meet them, isn't it?" I asked.

"If it," he replied, "but I am convinced that it's the only way to settle it."

"We talked the situation over in more detail and I left, convinced that if intelligent good will, human sympathy and a real Celtic understanding of the Irish problem could settle it the settlement lies in Mr. Lloyd George's hands."

The next day Mr. Glynn took this word to Archbishop Mannix, and much to every one's surprise that supposed firebrand hailed the news with delight. He urged Mr. Glynn to go immediately to Dublin and talk to De Valera. But later we all agreed that perhaps it was best for Mr. Glynn not to appear so definitely in the negotiations at that time, and while Mr. Ackerman stayed in London I hurried over to Dublin on the night train.

It was a bad time in Dublin just then. You felt on the streets always as if some one was drawing a bead on you. And when you looked over your shoulder

it was generally true. Armored cars and sheathed lorries moved with machine guns constantly at ready. And I had in one pocket a letter from Martin Glynn telling De Valera that "Stuart is all right—talk to him."

Runs Into an Ambush.

The liaison officer between the concealed De Valera and the press was a man who lived far in the outskirts of Dublin. I had to make the journey to his house several times, with that letter in my pocket, before the interview was arranged. One day, as my taxi cab swung up through Grafton street, Dublin's fashionable shopping thoroughfare, it ran plumb into the tail of an ambush, with the streets smeared with blood and broken glass and two lorries and an armored car moving off just ahead of us. The officer sitting on the tail of the armored car had a long Webley in his hand. When he saw me raise my pipe it covered me just long enough for him to see that it was a pipe and that it was going into my mouth. And when I got to the house of the liaison officer he told me that I ought to be at the Gresham Hotel waiting for a "certain message."

When I got to the Gresham I found a young man that I took at first to be a divinity student waiting for me.

"Were you expecting somebody?" he said. "Then come on."

A block away a rattling "flivver" was waiting and the mild young man ushered me into the curtained back seat. Sitting beside him, despite his mildness, the "gag" in his overcoat pocket was quite obvious. And his eyes searched every corner. That "flivver" raced through the narrow, crowded Dublin streets as only an I. R. A. "flivver" can race, and after a roundabout journey we drew up in front of a little brick villa that might have been any place in Flushing L. I. A side door stood open.

Found De Valera in Disguise.

"Just go right in—don't hesitate," said the young divinity student, and he is not the sort whose orders one neglects.

Some one showed us politely into a darkish little front parlor and in a few minutes a tall and stooping figure came in. I had seen Mr. de Valera many times in New York, but his quite simple disguise and his skilful change of bearing made him completely unrecognizable. He had grown a mustache and he had brushed his hair with a skilful differ-

ence that altered the entire shape of his head and even of its setting on his shoulders until he sat down and began to talk.

Mr. Lloyd George's message had never been committed to paper, but we had carefully memorized its precise terms and Mr. de Valera listened intently to them. His first answer was incredulous—and even in the end the best I could get from him was this:

"When Mr. Lloyd George makes that proposal in public I will give him a public answer."

He then chatted rapidly for half an hour on the whole Irish situation and on his attitude, and I confess that I got little hope out of it. Strangely enough, the snag over which Mr. Lloyd George's attitude and Mr. de Valera's could not be brought together was even then the same snag over which Mr. de Valera seems losing power now. He could not for a moment consent, he said, to any admission of British sovereignty over Ireland. There were many hints that he was willing to talk about almost anything but that.

"The New York Herald" Prints Questionnaire.

There were other men in Dublin at that time, however, who were extremely influential with Sinn Fein, one of them a big business man and the other, strangely enough, an official at Dublin Castle. From both of these men I got the idea that there was a possibility of settlement despite Mr. de Valera's attitude at the moment, and they agreed that it was wise to print the statements of the two men. A written questionnaire was submitted to Mr. de Valera and this with his answers and with Mr. Lloyd George's statement to Mr. Glynn were published in THE NEW YORK HERALD the following day, giving for the first time the basis upon which the Irish and British leaders ultimately got together and settled the trouble.

Many other efforts had been made at that time to establish contact between the two sides, but always there was some hitch in one way or another. From the moment that Mr. de Valera got word that Mr. Lloyd George would meet him without conditions, however, the approach to that meeting was developed rapidly. It was the opinion of some of Mr. Lloyd George's advisers that the pace had been forced by the publication of his offer, and a qualified denial of it was issued from Downing

Street the next day in which officials were quoted as saying that the Prime Minister had gone no further out of Parliament than he had inside the House. The diplomacy of the denial may be obvious when the location of Mr. Glynn's interview with the Prime Minister is remembered.

The friends of peace in Dublin were quietly at work all the time, as was Mr. Lloyd George. There is good reason to believe that Mr. Lloyd George was not displeased with the publication of his offer, and it was but a few weeks later that both sides felt the ground had been sufficiently prepared for the invitations to the conference to be openly exchanged.

BOLAND COUNSELS CALMNESS IN CRISIS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The following statement was issued to-night by H. J. Boland as "envoy of the Irish Republic in America":

"The appeal of President de Valera

to the Irish people to maintain a calm front at this crisis can be extended to all friends of Ireland in this country. The decision rests squarely on the men who are representatives of the Irish people. Dail Eireann will speak in no uncertain voice this week. Let all friends of Ireland realize at this solemn hour that premature criticism oftentimes proves a boomerang."

An admonition to all officers and members of the American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic to refrain from public utterances on the terms of the agreement was issued by Thomas W. Lyons, secretary of the association.

FEDERAL MEDIATION ASKED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—Request of the oil workers union district council of California for Department of Labor intervention to obtain conferences with the employers was referred by Secretary Davis to-day to the department's agents now in the oil fields.

SENATOR RUNYON DECORATED. State Senator William N. Runyon of Plainfield, N. J., has been decorated by King Victor Emmanuel of Italy. It was announced yesterday. It is expected that the decoration was given to the Senator for his work in having legislation passed in New Jersey through which alien Italians come under the State compensation act when injured or killed in the performance of their employment.

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- Tilt-Top Tables from.....10.50
- Nested Tables from.....22.00
- Gazelle Tables from.....27.00
- Console Tables with Mirrors from.....65.00
- Seating Cabinets from.....29.00
- Plant Stands from.....7.00
- Cellarettes from.....\$29.25
- Umbrella Racks from.....13.00
- Easy Chairs from.....49.00
- Davenport & Library Tables from.....27.00
- Smoking Stands from.....2.50
- Lamps with Shades from.....\$27.00
- Mirrors from.....24.00
- Cabinets from.....74.00
- Tea Wagons from.....27.00
- Telephone Stands with Stools from.....20.75
- Sofa Pillows from.....7.50
- Table Scarfs from.....3.50
- Spinet Desks from.....54.50

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